

THE OFFICE WORKER

Official Organ of the Office Employees International Union of the A. F. of L.

No. 106

OCTOBER, 1953

17

CONFERENCES ROLLING



Some of the delegates to Eastern Organizational Conference. At extreme right, wearing dark tie, is Joseph McCusker, who was elected president of the Conference.

Eastern Organizational Conference Established

Seventeen locals of the Office Employees International Union were well represented in Philadelphia on Sunday, October 4, to form an Eastern Organizational Conference.

This conference was presided over by International President Howard Coughlin, Secretary-Treasurer Hicks, Director of Organization H. B. Douglas, and Vice President Edward Springman. Vice Presidents Nicholas Juliano and George P. Firth were active participants in the conference.

President Coughlin gave a comprehensive report on the organizational plans of the International Union. He stressed the need for organizational conferences, particularly this one involving the Eastern seaboard cities from New York City to Washington, D. C.

He explained that the purpose of the conference was to provide more organizers in this area. The immediate goal is to put two additional organizers in the cities of Philadelphia and Baltimore. He explained the need for contributions by the local unions involved.

Director of Organization Douglas went into the specifics of the plan, including a proposed system of contributions on a flat payment basis. He emphasized that the plan would provide organizers for a given conference area as opposed to International representatives who would

be subject to call insofar as other parts of the country are concerned.

After much discussion, all of which constituted an enthusiastic response to the plans of the International Union, the program was adopted unanimously.

Joseph McCusker, of Local 258, Trenton, N. J., was elected president, and Edward Springman, secretary-treasurer of the Eastern Organizational Conference.

It is anticipated that additional organizers will be put into the field immediately after the November 1 effective date of affiliation.

Further meetings of the Eastern Organizational Conference will be called in the near future as a result of consultation between the conference officers and the International office.

Another Atomic Plant Victory

In an NLRB election conducted at the Blau-Knox Hanford Atomic Energy Project at Pasco, Wash., OEIU Local 100 won an overwhelming victory.

Employees at this plant followed the lead of Portsmouth, Ohio; Aiken, S. C.; and the Sandia Plant at Albuquerque,

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International officers shown at the Philadelphia conference are: seated, left to right, President Howard Coughlin; Vice President Edward Springman, secretary of the Conference; Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks; standing, left to right, Director of Organization H. B. Douglas; Vice President George P. Firth; Vice President Nicholas Juliano.

Dallas Meeting Sets Up Southwestern Conference

The first of the series of organizational conferences was set up in Dallas, Tex., September 13, by Secretary-Treasurer Howard Hicks and Director of Organization H. B. Douglas. This conference includes Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas and western Louisiana.

The delegates in attendance at the conference voted to contribute 25 cents per member per month with a minimum of \$10 per month from each local union. The Inter-

national Union will supplement these funds to the extent necessary to put a full-time organizer in this area. The delegates were enthusiastic about the program and hoped that within a short time additional organizers can be added to assist in the organization of office workers in the area.

Walt Newman, of Local 27, at Galveston, was elected president of

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Sad News, Girls: Men Are Scarce

Young civilian men are growing scarce, the Census Bureau reported this week in a piece of bad news for the girls. For every 100 single girls of 18 or 19 last year, there were only 61 eligible civilian men aged 21 or 22, the Bureau found.

The three-year difference in ages compared is because girls generally marry men about three years older than themselves. The Census Bureau also explained that the chief reason for the man shortage is that so many young men are now in the army. Looks like many of the girls will have to wait a while—or marry a GI.

On the serious side, the Bureau reported that the number of married persons and of families both reached new peaks last year, despite the dearth of new young bridegrooms.

SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS

Experts have told us our school system is only half what it should be. And they have warned us that the situation is getting worse by leaps and bounds as the record crop of war children begins to hit the schools in full force.

Yet, Congress has refused to earmark revenues which the federal government will receive from oil deposits on the "continental shelf" for use in building better educational facilities.

The Senate, by a substantial majority, voted in favor of an amendment by Senator Lister Hill of Alabama which would have channeled the oil revenues to educational purposes. But the House voted merely to give the federal government control of the shelf and House conferees refused to accept the Hill proposal.

Many children are getting a second-rate education in a nation which prides itself on being a first-rate democracy. Informed citizens are essential to the well-being of democratic government.

Sooner or later, we will suffer from our own short-sightedness. This prospect should be bothering the conscience of members of the House who, thus far, have refused to designate a rich natural resource to the task of helping to rescue our educational system.—*The International Engineer.*

USEFUL SERVICES

Your International office has been using the Labor Services published by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., for some time and has found them to be extremely useful and helpful in keeping pace with the rapidly changing conditions under the various labor laws. *Union Labor Report*, published weekly, is especially valuable. It brings you a constantly up-to-date conveniently organized file of reliable, factual information which should be con-

Back the Fight on Polio

With the fight against polio entering the final but more costly phase, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis must seek greater contributions than ever before in its 1954 March of Dimes appeal.

Recognizing this, the Office Employees International Union, always a backer of this great humanitarian program, is taking the unusual course of urging all local unions to adopt the following resolution, inserting the number of the local:

WHEREAS Office Employees International Union has always been a loyal supporter in the fight against infantile paralysis through contributions to the annual March of Dimes; and

WHEREAS the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis through its research has made significant strides against the disease in developing a vaccine which, it is hoped, will provide permanent immunity; and

WHEREAS it has found meanwhile that gamma globulin is a temporary stopgap which it is utilizing fully in an effort to minimize epidemics until a permanent vaccine is tested successfully; and

WHEREAS \$11,000,000 March of Dimes funds have been allotted to provide gamma globulin, free of charge, for mass injections in epidemic areas to protect America's children; and

WHEREAS despite this added research and expense of mass GG injections in epidemic areas which it is estimated costs \$13,000 to protect the one child in 2,000 who, on the average, might contract the disease during an epidemic without this protection; and

WHEREAS the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis meanwhile gives direct financial aid to four out of five polio cases to assist them to recovery through its patient care program, without diminishing its services in professional training, research or education; and

WHEREAS it continues to lead, unify and direct vigorously the fight on polio with every means at its disposal on every front although this involves far greater financial support than it has ever received in the past; and

WHEREAS all members of organized labor directly or indirectly benefit from the services provided by the National Foundation, through patient care or otherwise: Therefore be it

Resolved, That fully recognizing the final but more costly phase which the fight on polio has now entered we urge all members to give urgent and unusual consideration to the 1954 March of Dimes appeal and in their contributions, either individually or collectively, to give more generously than ever before to speed the day of final victory against polio.

Local No. 2 Girls Pool Talent In Aid of Fellow Member

Two hundred and fifteen girls who are members of Office Employees International Union, Local 2, in Washington, D. C., wanted to help a fellow worker in distress and found at least 215 ways to do it.

Stenographers, clerks, machine operators and other members of Local 2 working for the International Association of Machinists at Washington, devised many methods of helping a member of their ranks who became ill and was hospitalized last November. They crocheted many useful doo-dads for the home. Some delved into ceramics and other forms of handicraft. Others made cakes, cookies and candy. They then conducted a "bake" sale and arranged for other methods of display which netted a goodly sum. They devised a system of collection where each employe contributed weekly toward this fund.

Members of Local 2 working in other offices, becoming aware of

sulted before making decisions.

The weekly mailings are filed in two durable ring binders. This organized data is supplemented weekly with a labor bulletin which summarizes important developments about which you should be informed. It includes the weekly *Laborgraph* which analyzes significant trends.

what was going on, contributed their time and money toward this most worthy project.

Medical, hospital and nursing bills have been paid each week by all of these interested people working together toward making the lot of their fellow union member a better one during a very serious illness.

These members of Local 2 are to be commended for the example they have shown the rest of us when one of our number becomes seriously disabled.

OEIU Label Starred At Baltimore Show

Baltimore, Md.—The exhibit of OEIU Local 22 rated high with visitors to Baltimore's second Union Label show.

Said one: "All the exhibits were good, but none can dispute the fact that the booth of Local 22 packed the most personality."

Members manning the booth were: Local President Dorothy Reuwer; Vice President Theresa Radcliffe; Recording Secretary Hazel Gray; Trustees Miriam Biondo, Margaret Harrison, Doris Wenzel and Members Josephine Palleschi and Dorothy Fankhanel.

Murphy Returns to Arbitration Group

The appointment of Joseph S. Murphy as a vice president in charge of promotional and educational activities of the American Arbitration Association was announced by President Whitney North Seymour. Returning to the Association following an absence of 15 months during which time he was with the Equitable Life Assurance Society as a specialist in human and public relations, Mr. Murphy will direct the Association's promotion of voluntary arbitration among labor unions, chambers of commerce, trade associations, educational institutions and bar associations.

The American Arbitration Association is a non-profit, membership corporation chartered under the laws of New York State, and devoted wholly to the advancement of the knowledge and use of voluntary arbitration for the settlement of labor-management, commercial and international trade disputes.

You can send a message around the world in a seventh of a second, yet it may take years to force a simple idea through one-quarter inch of human skull.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233), showing the ownership, management, and circulation of THE OFFICE WORKER, published monthly at Washington, District of Columbia, for October, 1953.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, and business manager are: Publisher, Office Employees International Union, Washington, D. C.; Editor, Howard Coughlin, Washington, D. C.; Business Manager, J. Howard Hicks, Washington, D. C.

2. The owner is: Office Employees International Union, Washington, D. C.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

[Signed] HOWARD COUGHLIN, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of September, 1953.

J. B. DICKMAN, JR. Notary Public.

[Seal] (My commission expires January 31, 1956.)

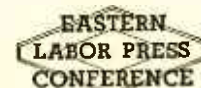
THE OFFICE WORKER

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AFL Membership Tops 10 Million

Membership of the American Federation of Labor is now well over 10 million—the highest in history.

That new milestone in the growth of the "House of Labor" was revealed at the 72nd convention held in St. Louis. OEIU delegates were President Howard Coughlin and Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks.

President George Meany was re-elected by acclamation, and pledged the delegates that he would give the job "the best I have."

William F. Schnitzler was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer, as were 13 incumbent Vice Presidents. Maurice A. Hutcheson, president of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, and Al J. Hayes, president of the International Association of Machinists, were named to the new posts as Fourteenth and Fifteenth Vice Presidents.

Here are some of the other high spots of the big conclave:

1. Unanimous approval of the non-raiding pact with the CIO.
2. Adoption of a plan for formulation, in a calm and judicious atmosphere, of machinery for ending jurisdictional strife among AFL affiliates.
3. Complete endorsement of former Secretary of Labor Martin P. Durkin and unanimous condemnation of President Eisenhower for breaking an agreement to recommend to Congress 19 amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act.
4. Renewed determination to keep up the fight for revision and recification of the "vicious one-sided, anti-labor provisions" of that law even though the Durkin resignation "raises a grave question over the future attitude of the present Administration toward labor legislation."
5. Forging of a strong legislative

program for 1954, including a broad housing program, Social Security improvements, Federal aid to education, civil rights legislation, strengthening of the Department of Labor, protection for Federal Government employes and fair taxes for all.

6. Adoption of an equally strong foreign policy program, calling for a top-level conference of the leaders of the free world to cement unity, shun appeasement and agree on a joint stand with regard to specific world problems.

7. Chartering of a new AFL International Longshoremen's Association to replace the gangster-controlled group ousted by the convention and serve as a clean, democratic and aggressive collective bargaining representative for the nation's dock workers.

8. Reaffirmation of the AFL's determination to engage in a stepped-up political drive next year to elect a liberal Congress in the 1954 elections.

9. Selection of Los Angeles as the convention city next year and Chicago in 1955.

Southwestern Conference



Shown at the Dallas meeting are: left to right, OEIU Director of Organization H. B. Douglas, Walt Newman, president of the Conference, Frank E. Morton, secretary-treasurer of the Conference and OEIU Secretary-Treasurer Howard Hicks.



A "candid shot" of the delegates in discussion during a recess at the Dallas Conference.

(Continued from page 1)

the conference, and Frank E. Morton, International Representative, was elected secretary-treasurer.

The meeting in Dallas was addressed by Regional Director Lester Graham, of the A. F. of L., who promised his continued cooperation in the organization of office workers within his region. Organizer James N. Scott, of the A. F. of L., and Charles Birdwell, vice president of the Texas Federation of Labor, also addressed the conference and promised their support and assistance in the organization of white-collar workers.

The International officers intend to continue establishing these conferences and employing additional organizers in rapid succession

throughout the entire country and to the greatest extent that the finances of our International Union will allow. As a result of discussions of the delegates present at the Dallas conference, the International officers feel sure that this approach to the problem of the unionization of office workers is a practical and effective one and will receive the fullest support from all of the local unions of the Office Employees International Union.

Although the unionization of office workers in the Southwestern area has been progressing at a fast pace, the formulation of this organizational conference will increase the activity and result in additional progress in the organization of office employes.

OEIU Scores Gains in Greyhound Pact

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Local 73 reached a new agreement with Greyhound, Inc., which incorporates the following gains:

A wage increase of 8 cents an hour retroactive to May 1, 1953, with automatic increases of 4 cents an hour effective May 1, 1954, and an additional 4 cents effective May 1, 1955; three weeks' vacation after 12 years of service, and a sick leave program which provides for a maximum of three weeks.

President James Browning, who headed up the negotiations with the advice and help of International Vice President Oscar Bloodworth, is to be congratulated on this excellent agreement with the Greyhound Company.

Next Organizational Conferences Scheduled

Local unions in western New York, western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Michigan: Hotel Carter, Cleveland, Ohio, October 24, at 10 a. m.

Local unions in Iowa, Nebraska and northern Illinois: Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago, October 25, at 11 a. m.

Local unions in Washington, Oregon, British Columbia (Canada) and Alaska: Hotel Olympic, Seattle, November 7, at 10 a. m.

Local unions in California and Arizona: Mission Inn, Riverside, Calif., November 8, at 9 a. m.

Announcement of future conferences will be published in the next edition of "The Office Worker."

American National Pact Hailed by 27

Dallas, Tex.—Improvements secured in the renewal of a contract with American National Insurance Company are being hailed by OEIU Local 27.

Some of the features of the new pact are:

An across-the-board pay increase of 10 cents an hour, plus a 10 per cent boost in the rate ranges.

Time and one-half for all work in excess of eight hours a day. Time and one-half for all work performed on Saturday. Double time for all work on Sunday.

Improvements in the holiday schedule, with two and a half times the regular rate for work performed on a holiday.

Adequate medical facilities to be provided in the building for employes, plus assistance by a registered nurse when on sick leave.

OEIU Representative Frank E. Morton guided the negotiations for Local 27.

Renewal Agreement Boosts Wages 10%

Elyria, Ohio.—A 10 per cent general wage increase, averaging 13 cents an hour, highlights the gains won by OEIU Local 177 in the renewal of its agreement with American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation for the Sunbeam Air Conditioner Division. Negotiations with management were headed by William R. McCourt, business representative of the local.

Fight By 212 Wins \$9,000 Back Pay

In an award handed down by Sidney Pfeifer, president of the Erie County Bar Association, who acted as arbitrator, 100 employes of Loblaw, Inc., at Buffalo, N. Y., received 4½ cents per hour retroactive to December, 1951.

This windfall to our members was brought about through the determined efforts of Buffalo OEIU Local 212 to get for its membership money to which it was entitled, but which was being withheld under a technical interpretation of the law.

In an agreement signed in March, 1952, the company, subject to Wage Stabilization Board approval, agreed to pay a general increase of 10 cents per hour across the board.

Of the 10 cents, 5½ was immediately permissible under General Wage Regulation No. 6. This was paid retroactively to December, 1951. The remaining 4½ cents was petitioned for to the Wage Stabilization Board.

The Regional Board in New York denied the petition and an appeal was also denied. Before the national office of the Wage Stabilization Board could act on the last appeal, the President removed Wage Stabilization regulations on February 6, 1953. The company was then asked to pay this money out in conformity with the agreement.

Loblaw, Inc., refused, saying that the expiration of Wage Stabilization carried with it the denial of appeals then in the hands of the national office. Local 212, in bringing this case to arbitration, contended that the wording of the executive order abolishing the Wage Stabilization Board permitted all pending cases to be put into effect at once.

George Blair, attorney for Local 212; Bill Roberts, president; and Dick Coles, secretary-treasurer, are to be commended for their successful fight for justice in this case. George Firth, International Representative, gave advice and assistance during the course of this matter.

Chevrolet Workers Under OEIU Banner

Saginaw, Mich.—Employes in the chemical department of Chevrolet Grey Iron Foundry recently voted for representation by the OEIU. Negotiations on the initial agreement are underway. Robert G. Corrigan, secretary-treasurer, Local 42, Detroit, played a prominent part in the winning of the NLRB election among the group and is assisting in contract negotiations.

In 1900 the average employe in the U. S. made 43 cents an hour, in terms of 1949 prices. Fifty years later the average was \$1.43, according to the Committee for Economic Development.

New OEIU Locals Established



Local 303, at Texarkana, Tex., receives its OEIU charter. Left to right: Miss Alma Fluker, recording secretary; Mrs. Dorothy L. King, president; Arthur E. Turner, vice president; Miss Frances Crowder, secretary-treasurer, and OEIU Secretary-Treasurer J. Howard Hicks. Members of this local are Lone Star Ordnance plant employes.



OEIU Secretary-Treasurer Hicks installs the officers of new Local 312 at Camden, Ark. Taking the oath, left to right: Alice W. Foster, president; Charles Bray, and Jack Graves, executive board members; Ralph Parnell, vice president; Mildred Silliman, and Pearl Inzer, executive board members. Members of Local 312 are employed by the National Fireworks Ordnance Corporation.

Good Reason To Smile



Fifty-one members of OEIU Local 277, at Dallas, Tex., and 59 members of Machinist Lodge 776 received checks averaging better than \$125 in a retroactive pay settlement resulting from arbitration of a grievance at Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation. The OEIU and IAM handled the matter on a cooperative basis. Among those who received the checks were (seated, left to right): C. M. Curry, Jeanneane Bavousett and M. S. Powell. Standing, left to right: R. J. Carpenter, secretary-treasurer and business agent of Local 277, and W. O. Ware, president.



In the dark of night two safe-breakers entered a bank. One approached the safe, sat down on the floor, took off his shoes and socks, and started to turn the dial of the safe with his toes.

"What's the matter with you?" said his pal, "let's open this thing and get out of here."

"Naw, it'll take only a minute longer this way and we'll drive them fingerprint experts nuts."

Parson: "So you think you would have run through all your money had it not been for your wife?"

Villager: "I'm sure of it."

Parson: "And, my good man, how did she stop your spending it all?"

Villager: "She spent it first!"

"What has 24 feet, green eyes and a pink body with purple stripes?"

"I don't know. What?"

"I don't know either, but you had better pick it off your neck."

Passenger in bus: "Is smoking permitted, conductor?"

Conductor: "No."

Passenger: "Well, where did all these cigarette ends come from?"

Conductor: "From people who didn't ask questions!"

He—I suppose you dance.

She—Oh, yes! I love to!

He—Great. That's better than dancing.

Smelter Employes Gain Pay Increase

Tacoma, Wash.—Members of Local 23 employed by the American Smelting and Refining Company recently gained an 8½-cents-per-hour pay increase. Secretary-Treasurer Calvin Winslow of the local union handled the contract renewal negotiations. Substantial improvements in the health and welfare plan, which is a part of the agreement between the union and the company, were also gained.

ATOMIC PLANT

(Continued from page 1)

N. Mex., voting for representation by OEIU.

In announcing the victory, Business Representative Ernie Pursley and Secretary-Treasurer Lucille Hankins, in a joint statement, said:

"This means another important step in the building of a strong OEIU union at Pasco."

Much credit was given to Al O'Brien for his help and advice.